

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08229 021207Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 026551

R 021021Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1985

INFO DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV TH

SUBJ: ELECTION PREPARATIONS BY MOI

SUMMARY. MOI FINISHING UP PREPARATIONS FOR APR 4 ELECTION. RESULTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON MORNING OF APR 5. DOLA MAKING STRONG EFFORT TO GET OUT VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEPART OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (DOLA) AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS FINISHING UP IMPRESSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE APR 4 ELECTION. DOLA HAS SET UP 32,000 POLLING PLACES IN 119 CONSTITUENCIES, AND TRAINED SOME 400,000 ELECTION OFFICIALS AND SECURITY GUARDS. THEIR TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION IS 241 MILLION BAHT (\$12.5 MILLION).

2. POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON APR 4. VOTING PROCEDURES ARE QUITE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE U.S., WITH FIVE ELECTION JUDGES RUNNING THE POLLING PALCE, AND VARIOUS SAFEGUARDS (BUT NOT NECESSARILY FOOLPROOF) TO ELIMINATE CHEATING AND ENSURE A SECRET BALLOT. BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED ON THE SPOT BY ELECTION OFFICIALS AFTER THE POLLS CLOSE. RESULTS WILL BE SENT TO ELECTION CENTERS IN EACH CONSTITUENCY BY THE QUICKEST MEANS POSSIBLE. RADION TRANSMITTER WILL BE USED MOST FREQUENTLY, BUT DOLA OFFICIALS STATE THAT IN REMOTE AREAS THEY ARE USING EVERYTHIN FROM HELI-
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08229 021207Z

COPTERS TO ELEPHANTS. RESULTS WILL THEN BE TRANSMITTED

TO PROVINCIAL ELECTION CENTERS, WHERE THE RESULTS WILL BE TABULATED, AND PROVINCE GOVERNORS WILL ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS AND LOSERS. THESE NAMES WILL THEN BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS CENTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. ELECTION CHIEF YUWARAT KAMONWET SAID THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE THE RESULTS OF SOME RACES BY 9:00 P.M., APRIL 4, AND FINAL RESULTS OF ALL RACES BY 10:00 A.M., APRIL 5. DOLA PLANS ON KEEPING A RUNNING TABULATION OF THE NUMBERS OF SEATS WON BY EACH PARTY. THE ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON A HUGE BOARD IN FRON OF THE MINISTRY.

3. DOLA ORIGINALLY SET A GOAL OF A 60 PERCENT TURNOUT IN EVERY PROVINCE, AND YUWARAT NOW CLAIMS THAT THE TURNOUT WILL BE EVEN BETTER THAN THAT. WHILE EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT YUWARAT'S HOPES WILL BE REALIZED IT WILL NOT BE THE FAULT OF DOLA, WHICH IS MAKING AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO GET OUT THE VOTE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO08229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760125-0803
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604106/aaaadmno.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION PREPARATIONS BY MOI SUMMARY. MOI FINISHING UP PREPARATIONS FOR APR 4 ELECTION.
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006